

HEROES AND VILLAINS ENTERTAINMENT



Image **3**
of 5



BUSHIDO

THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR



ROB LEVIN | JESSADA SUTTHI

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'Rising Sun' by Shahin Chandrasoma

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I DIDN'T LOVE MITSUKO BECAUSE SHE WAS THE SHOGUN'S DAUGHTER, NOR DID I LOVE HER BECAUSE SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, THOUGH BOTH WERE TRUE.

I LOVED HER BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONLY THING I WANTED MORE THAN TO BECOME SAMURAI.

SHE WAS MY DREAM...



...ONLY I HAD REALIZED IT TOO LATE.

SHE WAS PROMISED TO MY BROTHER, AND WITH MY DEATH APPROACHING I FEARED I WOULD LEAVE HER WITH NOTHING BUT PAIN.



I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO SOOTHE HER SPIRIT, YET FATE INTERVENED WHERE I COULD NOT.

THE MAN'S NAME REMAINED A MYSTERY TO ME, BUT THE OTHERS ALL FOLLOWED HIS LEAD.

AMONG THEM WAS RAVEN, THE ASSASSIN WHO MURDERED MY FATHER.

THE CREATURES SEEMED TO THRIVE ON DARKNESS. THEY MOVED SWIFTLY, LIKE SHADOWS, AND ATTACKED WITHOUT REMORSE.

I WAS STUNNED BY THEIR FEROCITY, BUT MY FATHER'S WORDS AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE BUSHIDO GAVE ME STRENGTH TO ACT DESPITE MY BINDINGS.

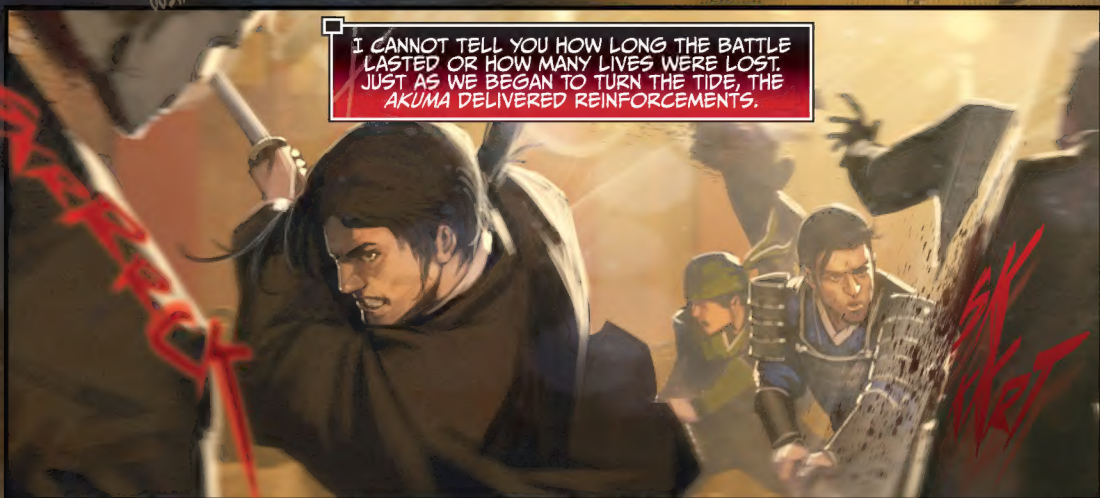
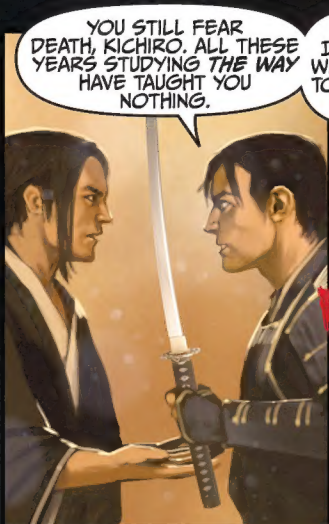
AKUMA!

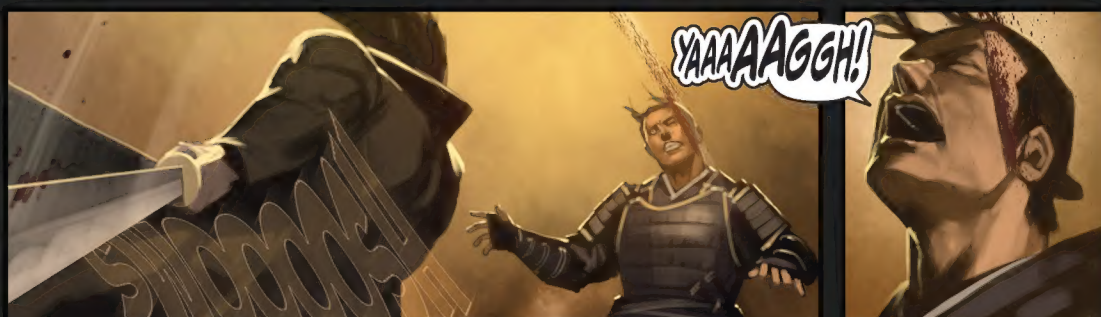
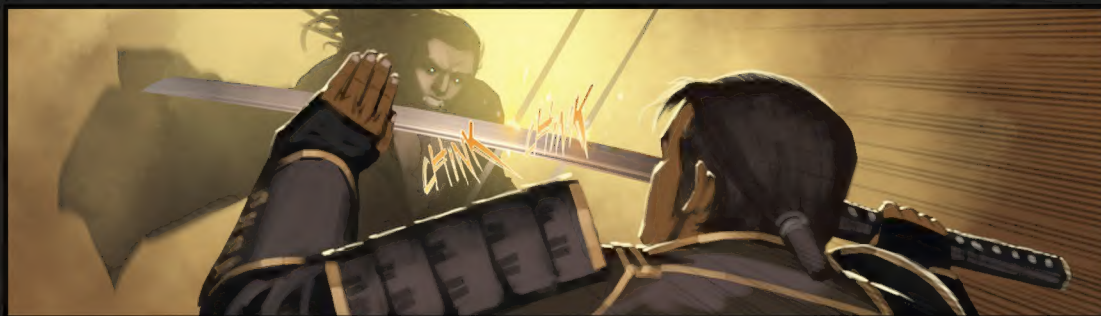
GET THEM TO THE TUNNELS! DO NOT LEAVE THEM ALONE UNTIL I RELIEVE YOU.

THERE ARE TOO MANY, OROCHI! COME WITH US.

AN ENEMY IS NEVER DEFEATED WITH DEFENSE. THIS IS MY DUTY. TO MY SHOGUN, MY WIFE, AND MY COUNTRY.

NOW GO!









AT FIRST I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE GARMENTS OUR ENEMIES CLOAKED THEMSELVES IN WHEN RAVEN SIGNALLED THEM.



THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT THE LIGHT DID TO THEIR MONSTROUS FRIEND I KILLED IN THE FIELD.

IF WE WERE LUCKY THE SUN WOULD BE OUR SAVIOR.



CUT THEM ALL DOWN!
NOW!



IF THERE WAS ANY DOUBT THESE WERE NOT HUMAN, THEIR BEASTLY HOWLS AS THE SUN DESTROYED THEIR FLESH LAID IT TO REST.

THE SAME SUN THAT SUSTAINS AND NURTURES US BROUGHT DEATH TO THESE MONSTERS.



CRASH



I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GENKI.

AND I, YOU, KICHIRO. I WISH THIS WERE NOT THE CAUSE FOR OUR REUNION.



SHE -- SHE HAS BEEN BITTEN.

SHE IS ONLY A CHILD. WE NEED TO HELP HER.

UNTIL WE KNOW FOR SURE, LOCK HER IN A CELL...

BUT WHAT IF...WHAT IF SHE IS LIKE THEM NOW?



...RIGHT NEXT TO MY BROTHER'S.



GENKI, ESCORT KICHIRO TO HIS CELL. WAIT FOR ME WITH THE SHOGUN AND MITSUKO.

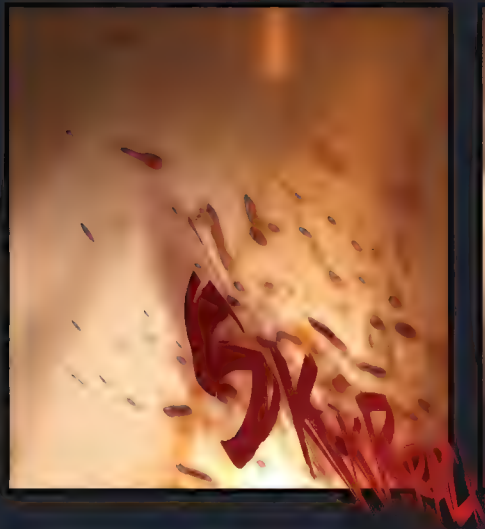
I KNOW YOU ARE ONLY DOING WHAT IS COMMANDED. I WILL CAUSE YOU NO TROUBLE.

"THIS IS NOT HOW I
WANT MITSUKO TO
REMEMBER HER
WEDDING.

"SEE TO IT THAT SHE IS
SAFE AND ATTENDED TO.

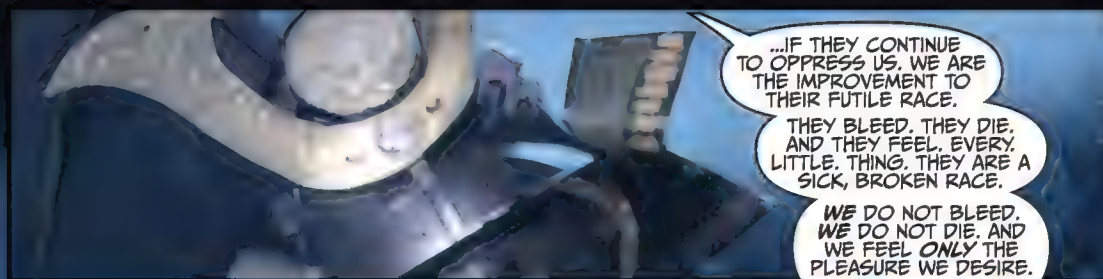
"I WILL FIND
YOU WHEN I
AM READY."







"WE WILL
NEVER BE
SATISFIED..."



...IF THEY CONTINUE TO OPPRESS US, WE ARE THE IMPROVEMENT TO THEIR FUTILE RACE.

THEY BLEED. THEY DIE. AND THEY FEEL. EVERY LITTLE. THING. THEY ARE A SICK, BROKEN RACE.

WE DO NOT BLEED. WE DO NOT DIE. AND WE FEEL ONLY THE PLEASURE WE DESIRE.

WE ARE THE CURE FOR HUMANITY'S ILLNESS, AND WE WILL SHOW THEM THE WAY.

THIS ISLAND IS MORE THAN A PIECE OF LAND IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OCEAN. IT'S THE BEGINNING.

THE SHOGUN'S REIGN WILL END, REPLACED BY ONE OF OUR OWN. HIS PEOPLE WILL SUSTAIN US. NO MORE WONDERING WHERE YOUR NEXT MEAL IS COMING FROM.

HIS SHIPS WILL BE USED TO EXPAND OUR HUNTING GROUNDS AND SPREAD OUR INFLUENCE ACROSS THIS WORLD.

I HAVE LED YOU HERE, TO NIPPON, FOR ONE REASON AND ONE REASON ALONE. **EXPANSION.**

THE SUN HAS ALREADY SET ON THEIR WORLD. IT'S TIME THEY ADJUSTED TO THE DARKNESS.

ONLY THEIR PRECIOUS "SAMURAI" STAND IN OUR WAY. LAST NIGHT'S SKIRMISH WAS ONLY A GLIMPSE. THEY ARE HIGHLY SKILLED AND ORGANIZED.

AND UNLIKE OUR PAST OBSTACLES, THEY DO NOT FEAR DEATH.

SO WE WILL TEACH THEM TO EMBRACE IT.

WE'RE NOT BUILDING A HOME. WE'RE BUILDING AN EMPIRE.

KKRRRAAX



SSSSSSSSSSSS

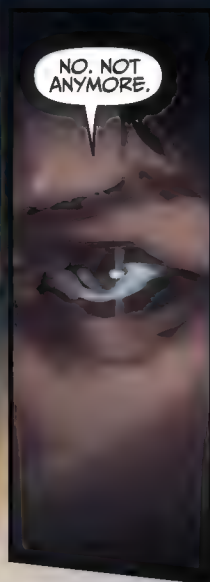


OROCHI, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?

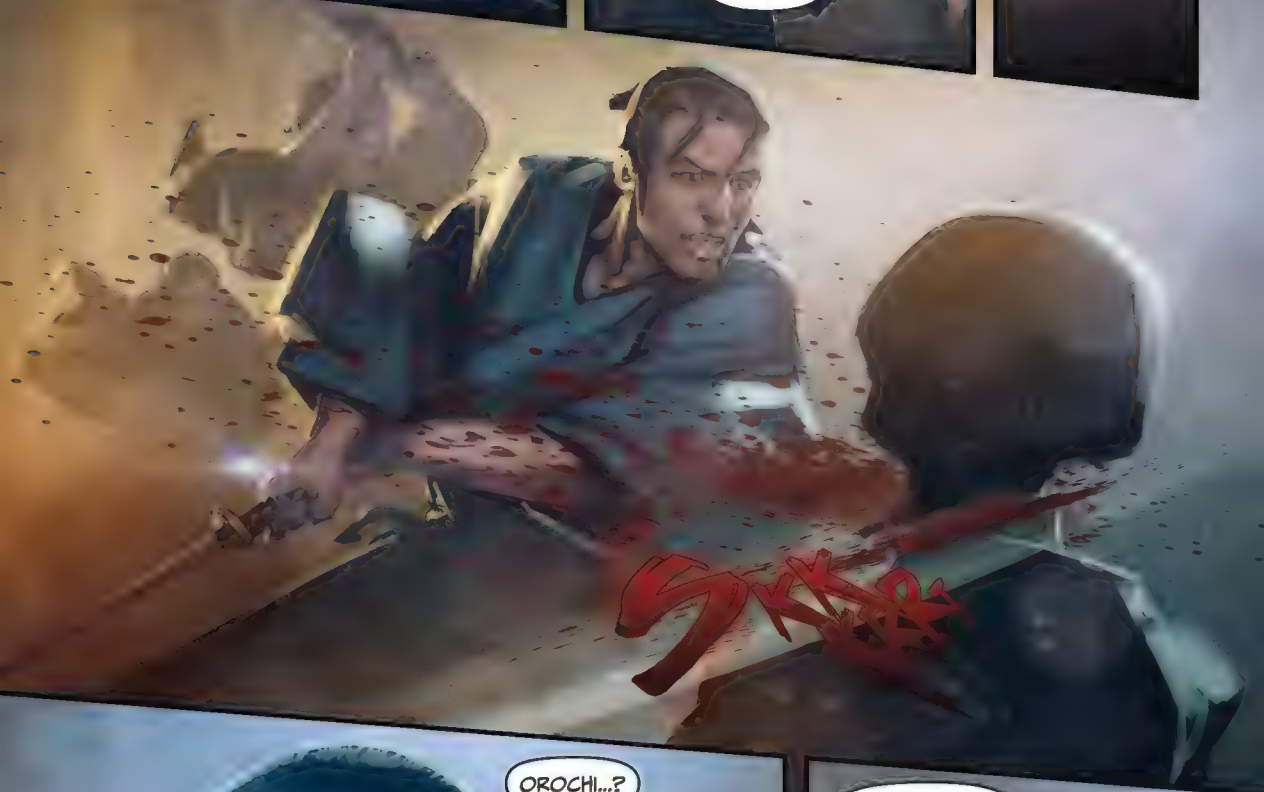
SHE WAS BITTEN. NOW SHE IS BECOMING... ONE OF THEM.

ARE YOU SAYING--

ARE YOU SAYING THOSE THINGS ARE HUMAN?



NO. NOT ANYMORE.



OROCHI...?

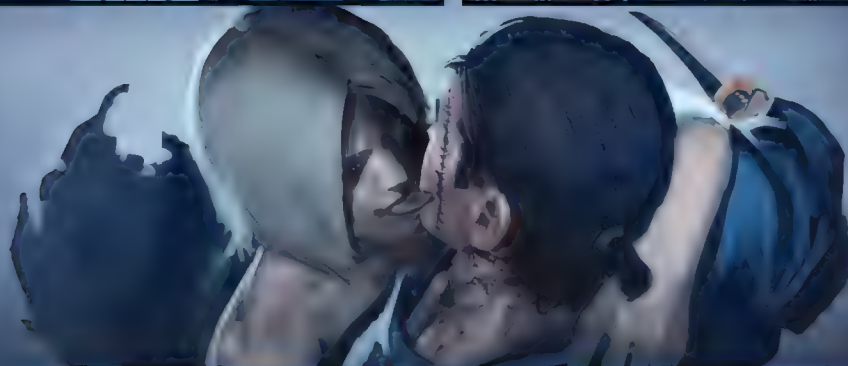
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.




I DON'T NEED YOUR APPROVAL, DAISUKE.

BURN THE BODY. TELL NO ONE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN HERE.







MY WHOLE
LIFE I HAVE
BEEN TAUGHT TO
FOLLOW THE
BUSHIDO.
BETR--

WHAT YOU
WERE HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
WHAT YOU
ARE.

SAMURAI
ARE BOUND BY
HONOR. YOU ARE
BOUND BY
NOTHING.

MMM...
YOUR FANGS
ARE COMING IN
NICELY.

SOON
YOUR ONLY
MASTER WILL
BE THE
HUNGER.

THEY'LL EXILE YOU--OR
WORSE -- WHEN THEY
FIND OUT WHAT YOU'VE
BECOME.

YOU HAVE TWO
CHOICES: FIGHT WHAT
YOU ARE AND LET THE
HUNGER DESTROY YOU.
BUT THAT'S A SLOW,
PAINFUL WAY TO
DIE.

OR JOIN US.
THERE IS NO
GOING BACK, NO
STOPPING THIS.
YOU'RE ALREADY
ONE OF US. TAKE
YOUR LIFE BACK.

I--

DON'T
ANSWER NOW.
WHEN YOU'VE
MADE UP YOUR
MIND, BRING THE
SHOGUN'S
DAUGHTER
TO US.

IF YOU
STILL WANT A
PET, WE CAN
EVEN ARRANGE
TO LET YOU
KEEP HER.

THE SUN ROSE THE
NEXT DAY, LIKE EVERY
DAY BEFORE.

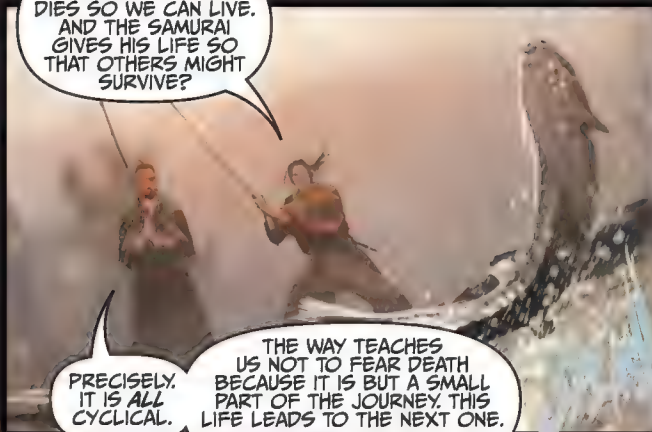
MY FATHER'S
WORDS
ECHOED IN
MY MIND.



THE MOTION
OF THIS STREAM.
THE RISING AND
SETTING OF THE
SUN. GIVE AND
TAKE. LIFE AND
DEATH.



SO IT'S A
CYCLE? THE FISH
DIES SO WE CAN LIVE.
AND THE SAMURAI
GIVES HIS LIFE SO
THAT OTHERS MIGHT
SURVIVE?



PRECISELY.
IT IS *ALL*
CYCLICAL.

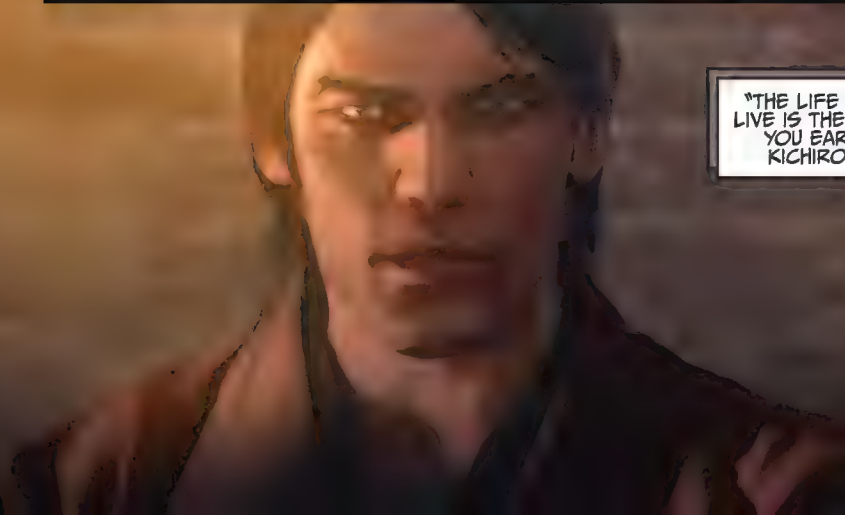
THE WAY TEACHES
US NOT TO FEAR DEATH
BECAUSE IT IS BUT A SMALL
PART OF THE JOURNEY. THIS
LIFE LEADS TO THE NEXT ONE.

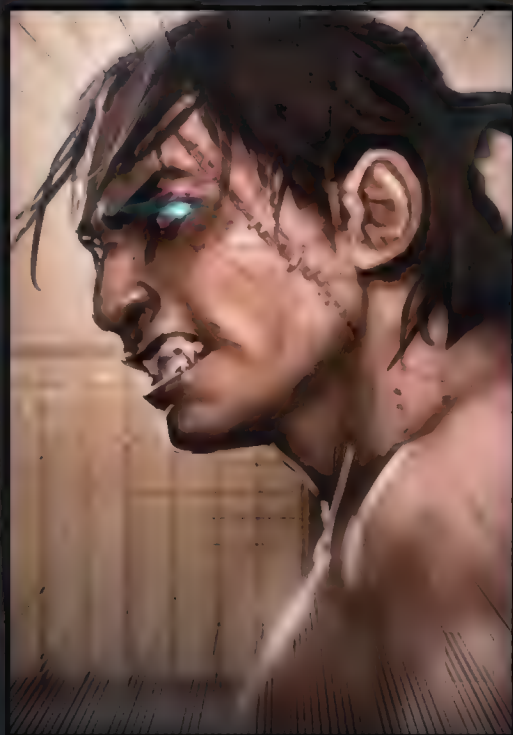
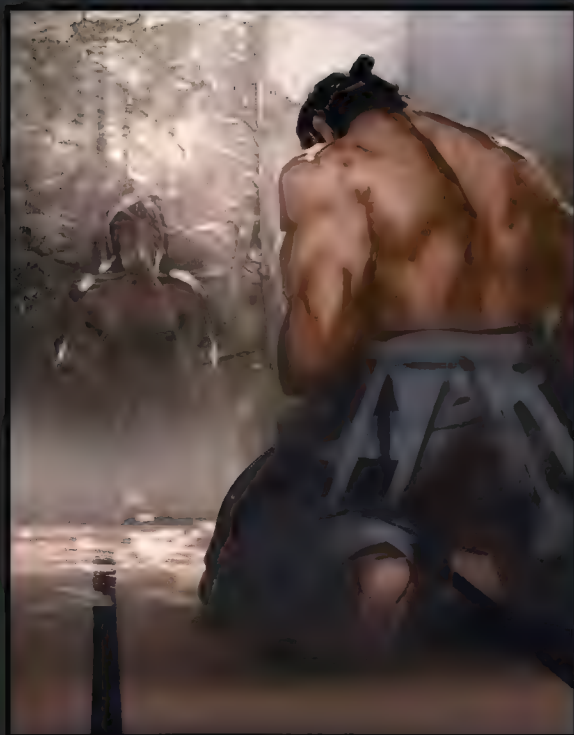
WHAT DO
YOU WANT IN
THIS LIFE,
KICHIRO?

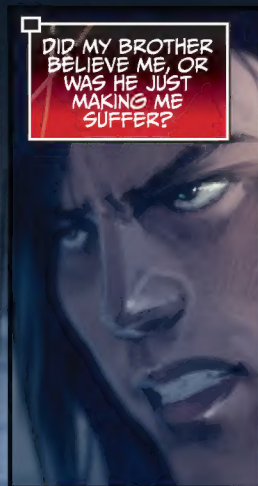


TO LIVE
HONORABLY
AND TO
UPHOLD THE
BUSHIDO.
AND TO BE
SAMURAI.

"THE LIFE YOU
LIVE IS THE LIFE
YOU EARN,
KICHIRO."









IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS, DO YOU EXPECT ME TO LIVE HERE FOREVER?

MITSUKO, PLEASE. I HAVE ONLY YOUR SAFETY IN MIND. WE CAN LEAVE WHEN OROCHI ASSURES ME THE THREAT HAS PASSED.

MY FATHER IS THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN NIPPON, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A "THREAT."

KEEP PUSHING IT AND MAYBE YOU WILL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DAYS IN THIS ROOM.
THE SUN HAS SURELY GONE DOWN BY NOW. YOU SHOULD REST. WHERE IS IT YOU SO DESPERATELY NEED TO GO?

AH...I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. I'M SURE KICHIRO APPRECIATES YOUR CONCERN.

HE DOESN'T NEED MY CONCERN, HE NEEDS YOU TO LISTEN TO HIM.

IN LIGHT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE WEDDING, I WILL GRANT HIM AN AUDIENCE. BUT I MAKE NO PROMISES ABOUT HIS FATE.

GENKI, BRING KICHIRO HERE. I SHALL AWAIT HIM IN MY QUARTERS.

HAI.

THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU!



I WILL BE BACK WITH KICHIRO SOON. NO ONE ENTERS THIS CHAMBER UNTIL I RETURN.

Fifteen minutes later....

HERE THEY COME.

TYPICAL GENKI...CANNOT EVEN KEEP PACE WITH A PRISONER.



DARKNESS

